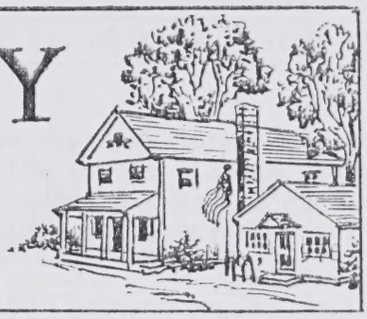
MONTEREY LIBRARY
3 7442 0003 7612 0

MONTEREY NEWS



OUR TOWN

May, 1978

Election Results

311 voters turned out at the polls on Town Meeting Day May 6 According to Town Clerk Sue McIver, it was the best turn-out in five years. Election results were as follows:

Moderator: Eugene O'Connell (159) Dean Amidon (124)
Selectman: Richard Tryon (186) Rick Mielke (118)
Assessor: Peter Vallianos (185) Maurice F. Roberts (109)
Auditor: William A. Stevens (270) Uncontested
Library (Vote for two): (3 years) Alice Schick (181)
Mary B. Ward (159) Judith B. Hayes (133)
Library (one year): Robert Ensign (265) Uncontested
Board of Health
(5 years): Helen Shaw (261) Uncontested
(4 years): Georgianna O'Connell (190) Osborne E. Dugan (103)
(3 years): Maureen Bradley (256) Uncontested
(2 years): Thomas F. Gillis (261) Uncontested
(1 year): Edith Wilson (176) Robert Ensign (114)
Cemetery Committee: Florence Brown (278) Uncontested
Finance Committee: John F. Jefferson (156) Kenneth R. Heath (138)
Parks Commission (3 years): Joel Schick (174) Leroy E. Thorpe (124)
Planning Board: William Brockman (258) Uncontested

Annual Town Meeting

The town budget passed without much ado. In special items on the warrant townspeople benevolently voted appropriations for such things as a truck and sander for the Highway Department, water and a high pressure washer for the Town Shed, radios for the Police and the Firemen, and money to finish the basketball court in Greene Park. The Selectmen were instructed to co-operate with New Marlborough Selectmen on the management of weeds in Lake Buel. It was suggested that a Committee be formed to make recommendations about regulating motor boats on the lakes.

Assessors' Statistics

For their own purposes the Town Assessors recently made a comparison between the Town Budgets of 1950 and 1975. Readers might be interested to know the relationships they found between changes in population and changes in costs. First of all it was found that both budgets were heavily weighted toward school costs and road maintenance costs. Otherwise, in 25 years:

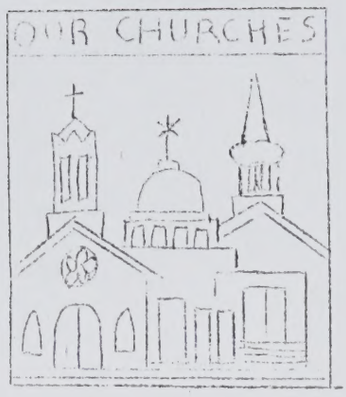
Total budget went up 9 times.
Cost of schools went up 14½ times (number of children went up 3 times)
Cost of Town Offices ($3500 in 1950, $9800 in 1975) went up 2½ times.

Population:	369 (in 1950)	639 (in 1975)
Voters:	249	426
Children:	45	142

The approved budget for 1978-79 showed an increase of about $50,000 over last year's budget.

Road Discontinuance

At a meeting chock full of concerned abutters, lawyers, real estate salespeople, and even citizens from neighboring towns, a three hour discussion ranged among the various issues raised by the Monterey Selectmen's petition to the Berkshire County Commissione to discontinue nine stretches of road in town. There were questions of liability, of maintenance costs, of the abridgement of individual rights, of restricted access for fire protection, of eligibility for subdivision and/or building permits. There were large and small questions. The County Commissioners, having heard all that was said, made a decision to deny the petition of the Selectmen in deference to the strong feelings voiced by townspeople. Moderator Peter Arlo (who allowed Vote for Arlo emery boards to be passed around during the meeting) exhorted those who attended to realize that the Monterey Selectmen felt they had "acted in the best interests of the town," and characterized the reaction against the petition as a widespread and increasingly more prevalent resentment on the part of the voting public against "the intrusion of government into private lives."



CATHOLIC CHURCH

Immaculate Conception Church, Mill River -- Mass at 10 each Sunday.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Notes

Morning worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. . . .
Kindergarten class Sunday at 10:30 a.m. . . . .
Grades 1-5 Wednesdays at 3:15 p.m. . . . . .

Nurturing the Inner Spirit

Certainly one of the central mandates of the church is to nurture the inner spirit of people. The Monterey Church tries to take this mandate seriously. Worship is always aimed at aiding the inner life of a person be in contact with the larger resources of the Spirit. We think of morning worship as the gathering of the larger community to celebrate together our spiritual heritage and to nurture the life in the spirit as seen in the light of Jesus Christ. There are also smaller groups that meet during the week to help open up these spiritual channels of each person. Several of the current ones are described below.

Bible Study Group

During May this group is meeting on each Tuesday evening. This series is studying the parables of Jesus. The emphasis is on the way these parables speak to us in our living today. The group meets in different homes in the community.

Prayer Group

Every Thursday at 7:45 p.m. finds a group gathering at the home of Lucy Smith. The focus is on prayer. One of the central threads that binds the prayers together is the commission that Jesus gave to the church to be a community of healing. It is a discipline that the church is beginning to re-learn and it is one that this group takes seriously for the church in this particular community.

Meditation Group

Every Monday evening at 8 p.m. at the home of David and Irene Bach on Hupi Road a group focusing on meditation as a spiritual discipline meets. The purpose of the group is to enable each person present to learn the art of contacting the flow of spirit that lies in each person, and which is quickened and enlivened by the larger group. Although this group is not sponsored by the church it is commended as a spiritual resource for those who can be aided in the nurture of the spiritual through meditation.

Margot Peet Heads A.D. Board

Margot Sherman Peet, an associate member of the Monterey Church has been named as the president of the board of directors of A.D. Magazine. This is the official magazine of the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church. It is not strange for her. She is frequently being asked to serve in such positions of unique responsibility. We greet her as she assumes this sensitive position of leadership.

"OUR TOWN" -- continued from front page

Memorial Day Weekend Monterey's annual infinitesimal Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 29, at 1 pm. Don't be late or you'll miss it.

Flea Market and Bake Sale There will be a Flea Market and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 27, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Greene Park. Benefits go to the Monterey Food Co-op. Donations of clothes, attic and basement gleanings, cast-offs of all kinds, may be made to Barbara Gauthier (telephone 528-1624).

Contra Dance On Saturday night, May 27, at 8 p.m. there will be a contra dance at the Egremont Men's Club, also in benefit of the Monterey Co-op. Mountain Laurel will provide music with Penelope Naumann as caller. Admission will be $2.50. For information, call Joe Baker, 528-9385.

Community Dinner Everybody who is in town on Wednesday, May 31, is invited to the monthly community dinner to be held in the social room of the United Church of Christ Come at 6:30 p.m., bring your own dishes and cutlery. Bring a casserole or a salad to share. Alvah Sanborn, formerly of the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox will present a slide show and lecture on "Spring."

Lake Garfield Selectman Tom Bradley reports that the level of Lake Garfield is down 12 inches from normal. The flood gate was closed a final two inches on Saturday, May 6, there being no more danger of freezing. Other area lakes are down as well, and it is expected that with a few spring rains the water will rise to normal levels.

Road Work Road improvement is going on between LeProvosts and Molle's on Route 23. The roadbed will be raised 18 inches. The new surface will be no wider than the present one. Drainage has been improved and the system where Swann Brook passes under Route 23 has been repaired. The Selectmen invite suggestions from townspeople on tree plantings in the area.

SHALL WE CALL IT ALCHEMY, CHEMISTRY OR SIMPLY LIFE?

This morning for breakfast I ate a whole wheat cereal. I am now busy turning it into blood, muscle and bone, yes and many other body parts. The result will be similar to other blood, muscle and bone in the world. Nevertheless these particular specimen I am working on will be slightly different from all other blood, muscle and bone in the world.

Now, you remark, that is a strange, yes, a weird observation. Someone may be saying, "So What?" Well, before chemistry there was alchemy. Alchemy was a much larger endeavor than we usually recognize, but what we popularly remember from it was the search for a way to turn base metals into precious ones. Indeed they dreamed of turning iron into gold. That part of alchemy seems to remain an impossible dream. But am I not involved, even now, in an amazing sort of alchemy? Here were these grains of wheat I held in my hand this morning, then took into my mouth. Now they are well on the way to becoming blood, muscle and bone. And, mind you, a blood, muscle and bone different from all other specimens in all the world.

There is another form of alchemy, if I may continue to use that term loosely, that is going on in our lives all the time. This process receives far less attention than it deserves. It is the alchemy whereby the flow of influences, and experiences in a person's life is transformed into personality. We are well acquainted with the fact that several people may experience a similar happening, yet each does a very different thing with the experience. I remember hearing of the many persons who went broke in the 1929 stock market crash. Some people experiencing this as only tragedy destroyed themselves, yet others used it as the impetus to create new lives for themselves. The major factor appears to be an intangible yet very real quality within each person. So this alchemy takes form. Depending on the way people "digest" their experiences vastly different results flow into the personalities being formed. There is a saying that "One man's food is another man's poison." So it seems to be. What appears outwardly to be the same "food" nourishes one person and destroys another. The more we come to discover that this principle flows through all our life experiences the nearer we come to seeing the amazing alchemy from which the growth process does its work in persons.

Last month we noted that life literally bombards us with influences from the people around us and from our experiences. At first it appears we are being shaped and controlled by these influences. We may feel we have little to say about the persons we are becoming, since we are so caught and determined by these influences. Yet the long haul helps us to see that we ourselves become an important part of the "chemistry." Our interaction, our response becomes the critical factor in shaping whether the things happening to us contribute to our destruction or our continuing growth. It is becoming increasingly clear to me that the whole flow of life experiences can contribute to the further development and emergence of our persons. This includes not only the nice, beautiful, welcome things that come to us, but the hurtful, ugly, unwelcome things as well. I still find myself trying to avoid, prevent or possibly ignore those influences that I do not like. Yet, like them or not, as I deal with them my soul takes shape.

Our age has been shy on using the word soul. Yet I am using it here not greatly differently from the word personality. It is that inner quality of a person which works its way through the everyday events of a life and gives it a distinctive character or flavor.

This seems to be the unique task of each person, to take the influences and experiences that flow in and through him until it is all seen as the "raw material" from which life is given its shape. It is no wonder that the words creation and destruction are so important as we watch the life process. For this is what we observe people doing. We do not handle this flow of experience indifferently. We tend to create with it or we tend to destroy.

I would not pretond this is the best possible of all worlds. I do not imagine it is so designed that everything that happens is good for us. There is too much evidence of hurt, pain, suffering, burden to claim any such thing. Yet the evidence does begin to point to a world in which we are much more active agents in tipping the way things turn out than we will ordinarily let ourselves believe. So long as I insist I am a victim and I can't help what happens, then my world takes that kind of shape for me--and I become a victim over and over. So long as I see my own person being the alchemist, that I have an active interaction with the influences that come to me, then even the things I fear and dread become a part of the fabric of the personality that is coming into shape within me. This is a view of life that calls for a liberal quantity of both grace and guts. To be given grace means that life is generous. There is a lot of room to try, to fail, to be forgiven, to try again. It sees life as given to us with lots of margin, plenty of room in which to move. Needless to say, to use life to keep on finding out about ourselves takes guts. May each of you take unto yourself liberal servings of both grace and guts.

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ

On Saturday, May 13, the Board of Directors met at Farrington House, in Lincoln, Massachusetts. Of the sixteen associates and directors present, only three had previously visited the new half-way house. The morning session, led by the Rev. Paul Kennedy, president, opening with devotions led by the Rev. Hampton Price, was given as usual to Farm business, which now includes Farrington House. The Executive Director's report, which was presented verbally, covered a statement by Virgil Stucker, resident head of Farrington, who, with his assistant, Janet West, was invited by the directors to attend the day's meeting. A vote of appreciation to Mr. Robert K. Wheeler for all of his efforts on behalf of Gould Farm was unanimously voted. A special meeting of associates and directors was set for July 7, to be followed by a directors meeting July 8. After lunch at noon, the directors continued their business session.

At 2 p.m. the business meeting adjourned, in order to hold a joint meeting with five members of the Farrington House Board of Trustees. Mr. Malcolm Stewart, treasurer of the board, in response to questions, told of the work of Farrington House since the early years of this century for inner city children and for elderly women. There was a general exchnage of information about programs of the two organizations, now jointly involved.

Refreshments were served, following which the group, augmented by the presence of a number of neighborhood friends, gathered again for a brief service of dedication, led by Kent Smith. Everyone present expressed pleasure in the beauty of the house and grounds and in the sense of fellowship which had pervaded the day.

Rose McKee

MONTEREY GRANGE #291

The Monterey Grange met April 19 for a regular meeting. Rev. Raymond Ward was in charge of the program and it was all about Heifer Project Inc. It was most interesting and enjoyed by all.

The Grange Week display will be at the local library for two weeks, April 23 to May 6; other organizations from the Town have been invited. The public is cordially invited.

The Monterey Grange conferred the 3rd and 4th degrees at the May 3 meeting. Mary Wallace was Master for the 3rd degrees with Monterey members and members from Sandisfield taking part. The 4th degree was conferred by the regular officers with David MacWhinnie as Master; the new members are James and Patricia Christie, I. and Louise Halstead and Mildred Collins; there was also one candidate from Umpachene Grange. Deputy Lucy Ann Wuari made her official visitation. There were 35 members present, and guests from East Longmeadow, Worthington, Umpachene, Sandisfield and Heart of the Berkshires Granges. Lena Greene prepared the beautiful feast table.

The next meeting will be May 17, for our annual Youth Night when area youths and members will conduct the meeting and furnish the program, with Richard Hardisty as acting Master. The first meeting in June will be our Mystery Ride. Call the Lecturer for details.

Mary Wallace
Lecturer

BOY SCOUTS

The Cub Scouts have planted flower bulbs on the north side of the Library lawn, in hopes that they will come up very soon. The Cub Scouts have been sailing boats on the Konkapot River, and they just finished a study on landscaping, and are starting a study on flying (airplanes, kites).

GIRL SCOUTS

The Brownies went to Sunset Farm in Tyringham on the last day to get syrup. Arnold Hale showed them the process and let them have a taste of the syrup. The Brownies went to the Monterey Library to have Mary Wallace and Florence Brown explain the Grange exhibit. They also saw a movie on The Caterpillar. The Brownies took part in the Monterey Road Clean-up; they had New Marlborough Road.

The Juniors have been working on the final planning of the Court of Awards dinner held at the end of May.

MONTEREY YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group had a swimming party at Heberts. They are going to hike the Appalachian Trail when school gets out.

LITTLE LEAGUE

The Monterey Little League has begun practicing for the season. Practice is being held at 10 a.m. on Saturdays. Coaches are Peter LaRosa and LeRoy Thorpe.

Pam Gauthier, Youth Editor

ANNUAL ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

We wish to thank all the adults and children of Monterey, plus the organizations: 4-H Club, Cub Scouts, Little League, Brownies and Girl Scouts, plus the large delegation from Gould Farm for the SUPER clean-up that was done along the roads on Saturday, April 29. All major roads were done this year.

Many thanks to the truck owners for the use of their trucks and to the drivers for their time.

Refreshments of hot dogs, hamburgs and soda were served in Greene Park after the pick-up. Appreciation goes to the cooks and to the Roadside Store in acquiring all the supplies at such short notice.

Great effect on the part of the Police Department for patrolling the roads during the clean-up.

Thanks again to all.

Lois and Jack Ryder

FIRE DEPARTMENT STEAK ROAST

The Monterey Fire Department will sponsor a Steak Roast July 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. in Greene Park. Draft beer and soda will be served as well as hot dogs and hamburgers. Tickets are $7.50 per person. Firemen are selling tickets now and expect to have a door to door campaign (complete with fire truck and uniforms) in early July. Proceeds from the Roast will go towards the purchase of a radio alerting system which will allow fire calls to be dispatched to firefighters who can't be reached by phone. The volunteers in the Fire Department are appreciative of the support it has received at Town Meetings in the form of appropriations for new equipment. They want to finance some of their own needs when they can, so as not to raise the tax rate unnecessarily.

The Fire Department meets every week to keep in training for fire fighting. Each man is qualified as a "First Responder" and is trained annually in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation). Some are currently enrolled in a Massachusetts Fire Academy Course, "Firefighting Theory and Practice." Townspeople are urged to address questions about wood stove installation, outdoor burning permits and installation of heat and/or smoke detectors to the Fire Department. The Fire Phone (post this on your wall) is 528-1932.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor--

By moving to petition the County Commissioners for discontinuance of nine little-used town roads without first consulting the townspeople at a general meeting where the legal details of discontinuance could have been clarified, and where the will of the town with regard to long range goals could have been expressed, the Selectmen of Monterey generated some well-deserved resentment that was in plain evidence at the hearing on Monday, May 1. The resulting heat of the debate only served to obscure the issues. I hope Selectmen will avoid this unnecessary bad feeling and confusion in the future by listening to public opinion in full and open debate before making their own judgments as to what is good for the town.

Peter Markett
Monterey

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

This month we are deeply grateful to Mr. and Mrs. E. Bounous, Miss Martha Buttenheim and Rev. James Chase for their contributions.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

WANTED!

Lawn, Painting or any Odd Jobs
Call FRANK RUTONDO
516-354-7416
or
413-528-2490

H O U S E W O R K

Keep me busy this summer.

Make arrangements now.

Sylvia Brallier 528-1031

S T A F F

Editor: Patricia Howard
Assistant Editor: Ellen Kirven Pearson
(formerly Ellen Plount)
Managing Editor: Virgil Brallier
Art Editor: Edith Wilson
Youth Editor: Pam Gauthier
Circulation Manager: Gertrude Gould
Consultant: Margery Mansfield Janes

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
MONTEREY, MASSACHUSETTS
01245

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Monterey, Mass.
Permit #2

Monterey Library
Monterey